

2016 - 17 Enrollment Request



MCA 2014 Charter School contract reads:

2.3.4 The Charter School may enroll more than 390 students in years 3-5 by seeking approval from the Commission.

Maine Connections Academy schoolboard and school leader would like to present the following request to the Maine Charter School Commission.

Request for the 2016-17 school year:

Increase enrollment capacity **150 students** from 10/1/15 EPS count (390)

Established Need and Evidence of Readiness

1. Eliminate the current Wait list

MCA Board *"If we have students on our waitlist and the capacity to educate them, then why can't we enroll them?"* Our enrollment interest is strong and has consistently held 100-150 students on a waitlist

We have exhibited responsible planning and decision making and established an academic framework that can support additional students.

2. Need for Increased Funding to support hiring of an Assistant Principal or Master Teacher

This position would be focused on the critical Instructional Leadership responsibilities.

*Student Academic Participation, Progress and Performance Data

*Teacher Accountability Data

*Professional Learning Communities

*Student Intervention and Supplemental Support programs

*Assist Head of School with Teacher Supervision and Evaluation

The Head of School of Maine's first Virtual Public Charter School role extends significantly beyond the Academic Progress of students. As a result, it is extremely challenging to dedicate as much focused time on Instructional Leadership as our students need.

MCA Head of School is the school's only administrator.

Duties currently responsible for:

Executive Director – State wide Public Relations, Legislative Educational Committee, Programming
Superintendent - MCSC compliance, MDOE reporting, MCA school board

Principal – Academic programming, Staff Hiring and Supervision, Professional Development

Assistant Principal – Student Attendance / Truancy, Enrollment/Withdrawals, State testing, PLC – Professional Learning Communities

This year we are required by the MDOE and MCSC to work toward implementing the following significant requirements beyond Teaching and Learning:

Proficiency Based Diplomas - MDOE

Accreditation - MCSC charter contract

Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth (PEPG) plan – MDOE

Independent School and ESP Evaluation - MCSC

3. Additional Teachers would allow for an improved distribution of shared responsibilities.
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In an effort to provide a comprehensive school experience it is important that we offer programs and events for our students and school.

We currently have teachers responsible for one or two and in some cases 3 or more “School Representative Roles” beyond their primary teaching duties. Roles include focus areas such as: Field Trips, National Honor Society, Yearbook, Marketing, Intervention Programs, ELL, etc.

The 2015 MCA teacher pulse survey indicated a concern in the following areas:

***Shared responsibilities among staff**

***Time Management**

***Student Teacher Ratios**

These concerns were gathered anonymously from MCA teachers during the fall of 2015. It establishes an operational need for additional support. Our teachers are working hard and taking on additional roles and duties because they believe in our school. It is unreasonable to ask this of them for a third straight year.

Proposed 2016-17 School Year Staffing Model and Budget

The following is an anticipated proposal for increased staff support developed to meet our specific needs. It is based on our current staffing model and student to teacher ratios (approximately 35/1) previously approved by MCA school board. This is a proposed model that will be used as a guide in the 2016-17 budget process. Adjustments might need to be made based on actual enrollment and completion of the 2016-17 school budget.

Anticipated Hires:

Administrative Support

*Assistant Principal or Master teacher (½ time teacher – ½ Assistant Principal duties)

*Executive Secretary / Program Support

Teachers

*Math (2) – established and targeted need for improvement in 8th and 11th grade state assessment.

*English (1)

*Social Studies or Science (1) TBD

*Special Education (1) – anticipated increased enrollment in students with IEPs.

*School Counselor (.5)

Thank you for your consideration.

MCA School Board and Head of School